



# April 2012

## BRENNAN NEWS

For your convenience, this newsletter will also be posted monthly on the Brennan website at [www.bms.attleboroschools.com](http://www.bms.attleboroschools.com) where you will also find important news/links for parents and students.

### **FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:**

Dear BMS Parents and Families,

Welcome to spring! By this time of year, your child's teachers have gotten to know a great deal about your son or daughter's learning styles. One of the most important tasks we begin to think about at this time of year is determining students' placements for the upcoming year. This is a major undertaking that we address both carefully and thoughtfully.

Teachers collaborate with their grade level colleagues, specialists and administration to share information and to build classroom communities that reflect a heterogeneous mix of students with differing abilities, talents, personal styles and learning needs.

Creating effective learning communities where students' diverse strengths and needs can be nurtured is in everyone's best interests. It would be impossible for us to achieve this goal if we were to factor in individual parental requests for specific teachers. Additionally, there are always variables that we cannot control, such as staff assignments changing. Consequently, we do not construct class lists around particular teachers. In contrast, we build dynamic communities of learners that will work well together and will enable all students to be successful, both academically and socially.

If you have any information that you feel would be helpful as we place students for the next school year, please put that information in writing to us no later than May 1, 2012.

We are just beginning to pack up and send the March ELA/Reading MCAS tests back to the Massachusetts

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The boxes will be on their way and planning for the May Mathematics and Science & Engineering Technology MCAS tests will begin immediately. The May assessments will begin on May 8th and continue through May 16th. We, of course, want our students to perform to the best of their ability. You can help by making sure that your children get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast. If morning times are rushed, please know that breakfast is available in our cafeteria. Also, it is extremely important for the students to be in attendance and on time on those days. Your help in these areas will assist us in reaching our Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all of our students this year.

Attached to this newsletter is a Parent-Communication Guide that has been worked on this year by the Brennan School Council. We would like your feedback on the information that it contains. If you have suggestions and/or questions, please contact me. The purpose of the guide is to provide a quick, easy reference for the school's contact information and important dates. It is the School Council's intent to print next year's Parent-Communication Guide on a heavy stock paper that will last for the entire school year.

In light of the recent concerns for our students' safety as they travel to and from school, a few tips for walking to school can be found below this letter.

As always, if you have ideas, comments, questions, or thoughts you want to share, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time via phone (508-222-6260 x 302) or e-mail: [ksaltzman@attleboroschools.com](mailto:ksaltzman@attleboroschools.com)

Warm regards,  
Karen Saltzman

### **Children Who Walk to School**

Develop a buddy system for walking to and from school. Students should never walk alone. Always walk in groups with at least two or three other students.

## **Avoid Shortcuts**

Students should never take shortcuts or cut through alleys or across vacant lots.

## **Avoid Abandoned Houses**

Students should try to avoid walking near abandoned houses. Never enter or play near abandoned houses.

## **Be Alert**

Students should report anyone suspicious to school personnel or the police.

## **NO SCHOOL:**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday.**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> – April 20<sup>th</sup> School vacation.**

## **REPORT CARDS:**

Term 3 Report cards will be distributed to all students on **Wed., April 11<sup>th</sup>.**

## **8<sup>TH</sup> TO 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

### **SCHEDULING:**

8<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive preliminary recommended schedules for 9<sup>th</sup> grade. There is information on the sheet on how to create selections for your child's schedule.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents/Guardians:**

We encourage you to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents' night @AHS on **Tues., April 10<sup>th</sup> @7PM** to be able to ask questions and better understand the recommended courses.

## **FROM THE B.O.P.:**

Our next meeting will be **Tues., April 10<sup>th</sup> @6:30PM.**

Please contact Lucie Andrade @508-612-7845 or [brennanbop@hotmail.com](mailto:brennanbop@hotmail.com).

## **ATHLETES OF THE MONTH:**

### **MARCH:**

**Grade 5:** Mackenzie B. HR117 (Crook)

Brianna L. HR117 (Oliver)

**Grade 6:** James K. HR108 (Crook)

Jake P. HR104 (Oliver)

**Grade 7:** Rebecca P. HR214 (Crook)

Devin B. HR219 (Oliver)

**Grade 8:** Nate J. HR206 (Crook)

Sam O'D. HR203 (Oliver)

## **STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:**

### **MARCH:**

**Grade 5:** Connor Q., Hunter D., Kayla F., Morgan R., Riley N., Edward P., Robert M., Mai Linh V.

**Grade 6:** Emma K., Patrick K., Saydi A., Abigail J., Jeff M., Sam McK., Troy N., Andrew E., Gianna F.

**Grade 7:** Lara H., Jack M., Alex A-G.

**Grade 8:** Matt H., John B., Gabby M., Julianne F., Jack F., Paige T., Catie B., Morgan B., Evan N., Rachel B.



### **Dates to Remember**

5 – Term 3 Ends

**6 – No School ~ Good Friday**

10 – BOP Meeting @6:30PM

**10 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting**

~ @AHS @7PM ~

11 – Report Cards Distributed

12 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit to AHS

**16-20 School Vacation**

23 – Grade 5 Step Challenge Begins



## **LOOKING AHEAD:**

5/16 – Progress Reports Distributed

**5/28 – No School – Memorial Day**

## **MAY 2012 MCAS SCHEDULE:**

- May 8<sup>th</sup> – Grades 5 & 8, Math, Day 1
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – Grades 5 & 8, Math, Day 2
- May 10<sup>th</sup> -Grades 6 & 7, Math, Day 1
- May 11<sup>th</sup>-Grades 6 & 7, Math, Day 2
- May 15<sup>th</sup>-Grades 5 & 8, Science Day 1
- May 16<sup>th</sup>-Grades 5 & 8, Science Day 2

